

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action having a date of mailing of January 3, 2005, the applicant has amended the listing of claims to include features in claims 14 and 19 to distinguish over the art cited by the examiner. Claims 33, 34, 37, and 40 have been amended to correct reference to the independent claim.

In the Office Action, the examiner has rejected all of the pending claims as being anticipated by Swiss patent CH 615988 to Gabus. The applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner's contention, as the invention claimed in independent claims 42, 43, and 44, is not anticipated by Gabus. With reference to Figures 1 and 3 of Gabus, the sealing ring 13 is located in a sideways facing channel 14 in a first tubular section. The first tubular section and second tubular section overlap at areas 10 and 11. The sealing ring 13, is not located in the area of overlap, but instead is located laterally from the area of overlap. Claim 42 lines 6-9, include limitations wherein the sealing ring is located in a sliding overlapping contact area of the first and second tubular sections. Such location is not found in Gabus. Claim 43 includes a limitation at lines 7 and 8 wherein the one sealing ring is located in the area of overlap between the intertubular wall and outer tubular wall. Again, this location is not found in Gabus. Similarly, in claim 44 at line 6 includes a limitation wherein the sealing ring is located in the area of overlap. In view of the claimed location of the sealing ring, the rejection as to independent claims 42, 43, and 44 as well as the claims depending therefrom, should be withdrawn.

The examiner also rejects all of the pending claims as being anticipated by German patent DE 4105206 to Weinhold. The claims of the present invention are directed to a vacuum tight coupling for a cylindrical sputtering target. The art cited is for pipe couplings, which is not the subject matter being claimed. Pipes are typically installed and stationary, not being subjected to rotational forces, as are the sputtering targets of the claims. The pipes of Weinhold would not work as a spindle and target is claimed in claim 43, or for use as a sputtering target as claimed in claim 42. With reference to column 1, lines 43-52 of Weinhold, the aim of the invention described therein is to obtain easy opening, as shown in Figure 2. One skilled in the art for the invention presently claimed, would recognize that such designs would allow easy

opening, would present a less secure engagement of the two tubular sections, i.e. spindle and target, and would increase the chance of the target cylinder wobbling under rotational forces. Thus, what is shown in Weinhold does not describe a spindle and target as understood by one skilled in the art. Removal of the rejection is requested.

To further distinguish from the Weinhold reference, applicant has amended claim 14, to further define and describe the shape of the tubular walls in the area of slidable contact.

Specifically, the claim now makes clear that the area between the end of the first tubular section and the sealing ring should be parallel to the opposing inner wall of the second tubular section.

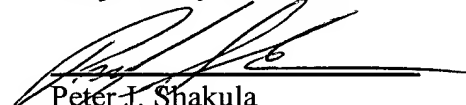
That area in Weinhold is not parallel to the second tubular wall as shown in Figures 2 and 4 of Weinhold. Thus, even if the examiner rejects applicants argument above, the new claim limitation is not found in Weinhold, and claim 14 should be allowable.

Similarly, claim 19 has been amended to include a second sealing ring. A second sealing is not found in Weinhold, hence claim 19 should be allowable.

Wherefore, reconsideration of the claims is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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